

Docket No. 97-2027-D

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A veneer comprising:
a polymeric matrix in an amount from about 20 to about 60 weight percent of the veneer composition;
a randomly dispersed, fibrous filler in an amount from about 5 to about 50 weight percent of the veneer composition; and
a particulate filler in an amount from about 20 to about 60 weight percent of the veneer composition;
wherein the veneer has deflection values in the range from about 0.60 to about 3.0 when measured on a sample of 2mm x 2mm x 25mm by American National Standard/American Dental Association Specification No. 27.

2. (Withdrawn) The veneer of Claim 1 comprising from about 30 to about 55 by weight of the polymeric matrix; from about 5 to about 40 by weight of the fibrous filler; and from about 20 to about 55 by weight of the particulate filler

3. (Withdrawn) The veneer of Claim 1, wherein the fibrous filler comprises short fibers of lengths no greater than 1/4 inch.

Docket No. 97-2027-D

5. (Withdrawn) The veneer of Claim 1, wherein the fibrous filler is silanized.

6. (Withdrawn) The veneer of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric matrix comprises ethoxylated bisphenol A dimethacrylate in an amount in the range from 55 to about 90 percent by weight of total polymeric matrix.

7. (Currently Amended) A dental restoration comprising:
a fiber-reinforced structural component having fibers embedded within a first polymeric matrix material; and
a pontic disposed on the structural component, the pontic having randomly dispersed fibers embedded within a second polymeric matrix material wherein the first and second polymeric matrix are the same or different and the fibers embedded within the first polymeric matrix are at least partially aligned relative to each other.

8. (Original) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the randomly dispersed fibers are less than about 1/4 inch in length.

9. (Currently Amended) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the ~~fibrous filler~~ pontic comprises fibers having maximum lengths no greater than 6 mm.

~~filler~~ pontic comprises fibers having lengths in the range from about 0.1 to about 6 mm.

Docket No. 97-2027-D

11. (Original) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the fibers embedded within the first polymeric matrix are oriented, woven, longitudinally distributed, normally oriented to a longitudinal axis, or a mixture thereof.

12. (Original) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the strain to failure value of the pontic is about equal to or higher than the strain to failure value of the structural component.

13. (Currently Amended) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the randomly dispersed fibers are selected from ~~one or more~~ the group consisting of glass, carbon, ceramic, graphite, and polyaramid fibers, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

14. (Original) The dental restoration of Claim 7 wherein the pontic further comprises a particulate filler.

15. (Currently Amended) The dental restoration of Claim 14 wherein the particulate filler is selected from ~~one or more~~ the group consisting of a silica, silicate glass, quartz, barium borosilicate, strontium silicate, barium silicate, strontium

zirconia, tin oxide and titania, and combinations of two or more of the foregoing

Docket No. 97-2027-D

16. (Original) A process for forming a dental restoration comprising:
providing a structural element comprised of a first fiber reinforced composite material;
disposing a second composite material thereon, wherein the second composite material comprises randomly dispersed fibers embedded within a polymeric material; and
curing the second composite material.

17. (Original) The process of Claim 16 wherein the structural component is cured prior to disposing the second composite material thereon.